

Options abound for Van Horn

Grant Koch is one Hog who can slide up and down lineup. — Sports, 1C



Consumer prices rise 0.5%

January uptick surpasses expectations, adds to inflation fears. — Business, 1D

# Arkansas Democrat Gazette

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## In the news

■ **Javier Torres**, 42, and Alfredo Lopez de Queralta, 45, both of Miami, were arrested by wildlife investigators after online videos showed one man illegally handling federally protected Florida panther kittens and wrestling alligators in the Big Cypress National Preserve.

■ **Dalton Kinsley**, 20, and Calvin Keener, 20, both of Eaton, Ohio, were arrested after, police said, the two were on a stolen bus involved in a 100 mph police chase and later told officers they “just wanted to go to Walmart.”

■ **Guido Grolle**, a lawyer in Dortmund, Germany, has asked police to help find the person who has sent 100 pizzas as well as sushi, sausage and Greek food to his home and office, adding that he sometimes gets the first pizza delivery alerts of the day on his phone during his morning shower.

■ **Gregory Salcido**, a teacher and city councilman in Pico Rivera, Calif., was condemned by his fellow council members for a video posted online in which he called members of the U.S. military “the lowest of our low” as he urged a student wearing a U.S. Marine Corps sweatshirt not to join the armed services.

■ **Evelyn Baker**, a former St. Louis judge, said she “deeply” regrets sentencing a 16-year-old in 1997 to more than 240 years in prison after he was convicted of robbing people in 1995 as they delivered Christmas presents to the needy.

■ **David Brimage**, 46, of Boston, a former Massachusetts motor vehicles clerk, was sentenced to eight months in federal prison and two years of probation for providing fraudulent identification documents to people in the U.S. illegally, prosecutors said.

■ **Jay Heward**, sheriff of Cassia County, Idaho, said a Black Angus bull that escaped from an auction yard had to be killed after it rampaged through the town of Burley, charging at people and causing a lockdown at a high school as it stormed past the campus.

■ **Leonard Gresham**, 50, a mail carrier at a postal facility in Newark, N.J., pleaded guilty to accepting nearly \$15,000 in bribes to intercept and deliver packages of illegal drugs and now faces up to 15 years in prison, federal prosecutors said.

■ **Constantinos “Danny” Filippidis**, 49, a Toronto firefighter, turned up in California confused and still in ski clothes after disappearing six days earlier while on a trip with friends and co-workers at a ski area in New York’s Adirondacks, authorities said.

## WEATHER

**LITTLE ROCK**  
**Today** A chance of showers.  
**High** 73, winds southwest at 15 to 20 mph.  
**Tonight** A chance of showers.  
**Low** 54.



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# Gunman opens fire at Florida school



AP/JOEL AUERBACH

Parents wait for news Wednesday outside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

## Heavily armed killer is ex-student, officials say

COMPILED BY  
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF  
FROM WIRE REPORTS

PARKLAND, Fla. — A gunman opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle at a Florida high school Wednesday, killing at least 17 people and sending scores of students fleeing into the streets in the nation’s deadliest school shooting since a gunman attacked an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., in 2012.

The shooter, who was equipped with a gas mask and smoke grenades, set off a fire alarm to draw students out of classrooms shortly before the day ended at one of the state’s largest schools, officials said.

Authorities offered no immediate details on the 19-year-old suspect or any possible motive, except to say that he had been expelled for disciplinary reasons from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, which has about 3,200 students. Parents rushed to the



AP/WILFREDO LEE

A student shows a law enforcement officer an image from his phone Wednesday after the shooting at his high school.

## UPDATE

Watch for more today at  
arkansasonline.com

school to find SWAT team members and ambulances surrounding the campus. Live television footage showed emergency workers who appeared to be treating the wounded on sidewalks. Students huddled in horror  
See **SHOOTING**, Page 2A

## Porter’s stint stirs legislator questions

### Panel chief raises security concerns

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DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF  
FROM WIRE REPORTS

The Republican chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee is investigating the White House’s employment of former senior aide Rob Porter after allegations emerged that he abused his two ex-wives.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., the panel’s chairman, sent letters Wednesday to FBI Director Christopher Wray and White House Chief of Staff John Kelly asking for information on what they knew about the allegations against Porter and when they knew it — an inquiry prompted by an apparent contradiction between the timeline offered by the White House and offered by Wray in congressional testimony Tuesday.

“I have real questions about how someone like this could be considered for employment,” Gowdy said Wednesday on CNN’s New Day, adding that “the chronology is not favorable

See **PORTER**, Page 7A



AP/J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE

Sen. Charles Grassley is at the forefront of a GOP proposal unveiled this week that President Donald Trump says accomplishes his goals for immigration.

## DACA bargain emerges; Trump firm on demands

COMPILED BY  
DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF  
FROM WIRE REPORTS

WASHINGTON — A group of senators reached a bipartisan agreement Wednesday aimed at balancing Democrats’ fight to offer citizenship to the so-called Dreamer immigrants with President Donald Trump’s demands for billions of dollars to build a wall on the border with Mexico, lawmakers said.

But though the measure sprang from 16 senators

with centrist views on the issue and was winning support from many Democrats, it faced an uncertain future.

While not specifically mentioning the bipartisan pact, Trump in a White House statement urged lawmakers to oppose any plan that doesn’t meet his more stringent demands, which include curbs on legal immigration and the abolition of a visa lottery. The Senate’s No. 2 Republican, John Cornyn of Texas, warned that lawmakers need to address Trump’s

entire proposal, saying, “We need to take the president seriously.”

There were also qualms among Democrats. The party’s No. 2 Senate leader, Dick Durbin of Illinois, said some Democrats had “serious issues” with parts of the plan. Those concerns focused on its spending for Trump’s wall and its provision that would prevent Dreamers, young people who came to the U.S. as children but who now live here illegally, from  
See **DREAMERS**, Page 7A



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/MITCHELL PE MASILUN

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville head football coach Chad Morris (left) and UA Athletic Director Hunter Yurachek join in calling the Hogs from the gallery of the state House chamber before Wednesday’s session.

## House panel’s GOP side praises Trump’s budget

FRANK E. LOCKWOOD  
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — In the House Budget Committee on Wednesday, Republicans repeatedly praised President Donald Trump and his fiscal 2019 budget, which envisions \$984 billion in deficit spending next fiscal year.

The president, who told Americans in a May 2017 address that he would balance the nation’s budget, unveiled a budget blueprint Monday that foresees 10 straight years of red ink totaling more than \$7 trillion.

Deficit spending was about \$665 billion in fiscal 2017, \$80 billion higher than the previous year.

White House budget director Mick Mulvaney — who was known as a deficit hawk when he served in Congress — said the budget would have his support if he were still serving on Capitol Hill.

“Does it disappoint me that we do not balance in 10 years? It does. Do I think it’s a failure because of that? I do not,” he said.

The fiscal 2019 budget would allow for \$4.4 trillion in spending between Oct. 1 and Sept. 30, 2019.

The White House anticipates 10 years of solid economic growth, low inflation, low unemployment and sta-  
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AP/JACQUELYN MARTIN

Arkansas’ U.S. Rep. Steve Womack (left), chairman of the House Budget Committee, and ranking member John Yarmuth listen to testimony Wednesday on President Donald Trump’s proposed budget.